

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and the following remarks are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The terms "user's selection" have been canceled from the claims by amendment in order to obviate the objection. Since these terms also appear in claim 8, claim 8 has been amended similarly.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,692 to Shanahan. For the following reasons, the rejection has been rendered moot for the following reasons.

The earliest effective date of the Shanahan patent under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is December 6, 1999, the filing date of related provisional application No. 60/169,158. The present application claims priority of Japanese Patent Application No. Hei. 11-234253 filed August 20, 1999, which predates the Shanahan patent. The Examiner has already acknowledged receipt of the certified copy of the priority document (see Paper No. 6, mailed March 18, 2003). A verified translation of the priority document is enclosed herewith in order to overcome the rejection. Since each of claims 1-10 are supported by the disclosure of the priority document, the rejection has been rendered moot.

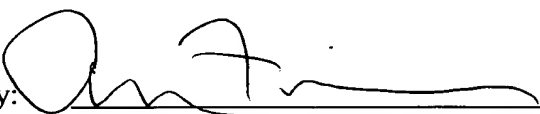
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appl. No. 09/642,221
Amdt. Dated December 20, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same
to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32892.

Respectfully submitted,

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